

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the enclosed Fig. 2 for the corresponding Figure filed on July 15, 2003. Fig. 2 has been amended to include a rotational axis (R) to provide support for the rotational axis recited in new claim 18. An annotated sheet showing the change also accompanies the replacement sheet. Both sheets are attached to the end of this paper.

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 13 and 17 are currently amended, and claims 18-19 have been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-19 are pending.

Claim 17 has been amended to clarify that the chain guide is separate from the linking member. Accordingly, it is believed that the drawings are now accurate, since the linking member is connected to the first and second link members through pivot shafts (33).

The specification has been amended to correct the matters noted at page 3 of the office action.

Claims 1-3, 8 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ozaki, et al (US 4,789,379). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the first portion of the link mechanism is coupled to the base member through a first pivot shaft, and that an outer cable sheath stopper is disposed below the first pivot shaft. Ozaki, et al discloses a derailleur (1) comprising a base member (3) that supports an outer cable sheath stopper (21). The body of the derailleur, including all pivots shafts for the link members (7) and (8), is disposed below the outer cable sheath stopper (21). Thus, Ozaki, et al neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter presently claimed.

Claims 1 and 11-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ozaki (US 5,597,366). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

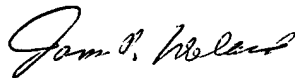
As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the first portion of the link mechanism is coupled to the base member through a first pivot shaft, and that an outer cable sheath stopper is disposed below the first pivot shaft. Ozaki, discloses a derailleur (1) comprising a base member (10) that supports a linkage assembly (9). Base member (10) supports an outer cable sheath stopper (20, Fig. 4) at or above an uppermost pivot shaft (16) of the linkage assembly (9). Thus, Ozaki neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter presently claimed.

Claims 4-7 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Ozaki, et al in view of Swiss patent no. 337,740. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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